

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 201232Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8211

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 2101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, TD, EWWT, ETRD, PLOS, XL

SUBJ: VISIT OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT

REF: MEXICO 5894

SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO PAID A STATE VISIT TO
TRINIDAD AUGUST 14 - 17 DURING WHICH HE AND PRIME MINISTER
WILLIAMS HELD DISCUSSIONS ON ANNUMBER OF REGIONAL AND
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THIRD WORLD ISSUES. THE VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PRO-

MOTING GOOD WILL FOR MEXICO AND IN DEMONSTRATING THE COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. END SUMMARY.

1. MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ RECEIVED A WARM RECEPTION IN TRINIDAD DURING THE NEXT-TO-THE-LAST STOP ON HIS TRIP AROUND THE THIRD WORLD. DESPITE THE HEAVY RAINS WHICH DISRUPTED SOME OF THE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, ECHEVERRIA'S FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT IN TRINIDAD MUST BE JUDGED A SUCCESS. WHILE NO DRAMATIC AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED NOR ANY NEW DEPARTURES ANNOUNCED, THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS WAS INDICATIVE THAT, IN WIDENING THEIR FOREIGN POLICY HORIZONS, THESE TWO LEADERS ARE ON ESSENTIALLY THE SAME WAVE LENGTH. THE UPROAR WHICH FOLLOWED WILLIAMS' CHARGES EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT LATIN AMERICAN POWERS, INCLUDING MEXICO, POSES A "THREAT OF RECOLONIZATION" TO THE CARIBBEAN WAS EVIDENTLY IGNORED DURING THE TALKS AND THE "THREAT" WAS GENTLY DENIED BY ECHEVERRIA IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

2. STATE VISITS OF THE LEADERS OF THE STATURE OF ECHEVERRIA ARE A FAIRLY RARE OCCURRENCE IN TRINIDAD AND THE GOTT WENT ALL OUT TO GIVE A PROPER RECEPTION TO AN ASPIRING THIRD WORLD LEADER. WHILE THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT WAS IN TRINIDAD, A LARGE PART OF THE GOTT DEVOTED VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS ATTENTION TO THE VISIT. PUBLIC BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT PORT OF SPAIN WERE APPROPRIATELY DECORATED AND, WITH A NEW "CULT OF PERSONALITY" FEATURE APPARENTLY DRAWN FROM WILLIAMS' RECENT TRAVELS, BANNERS BEARING PICTURES OF ECHEVERRIA AND WILLIAMS WERE HUNG ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE.

3. AT THE CLOSE OF THE VISIT, ECHEVERRIA AND WILLIAMS WATCHED THE SIGNING OF TWO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS - A "PROGRAM OF ACTION" FOR PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND AN AGREEMENT ON "SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL COOPERATION." THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES A PERMANENT JOINT GOVERNMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION, RECOMMENDS A SIMILAR COMMISSION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NASCENT REGIONAL SHIPPING LINE (NAMUCAR) TO INTRA-CARIBBEAN TRANSPORTATION, AND PROVIDES FOR RECIPROCAL VISITS BY TEAMS OF EXPERTS TO STUDY TECHNOLOGICAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS. MEXICO AND TRINIDAD ARE ALSO TO EXPLORE INCREASING THE PRESENT MINIMAL LEVEL OF BILATERAL TRADE IN A NUMBER OF SPECIFIED PRODUCTS.

4. THE SECOND AGREEMENT PROVIDES A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR EXCHANGES AND SETS UP A MIXED COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT IT. AS A FIRST STEP, ECHEVERRIA INVITED TRINIDAD TO SEND A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO STUDY MEXICO'S EXPERIENCE IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND OFFERED THE GOTT TEN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MEXICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IS CURRENTLY ONE OF THE CHIEF CONCERNS OF WILLIAMS AS EVIDENCED BY HIS STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS AT THE ECLA MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN. THE GOTT WAS NO DOUBT PLEASED BY THE OFFER AND SOME REAL FOLLOW-UP ACTION IS LIKELY.

5. THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED SEVERAL REGIONAL QUESTIONS INCLUDING NAMUCAR, A SPECIAL LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN, THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM, THE REINTEGRATION OF CUBA INTO LATIN AMERICA, AND NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PANAMA CANAL. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT, EACH LEADER GAVE CAUTIOUS APPROVAL TO THE REGIONAL PROJECT INITIATED BY THE OTHER. WILLIAMS "EXPRESSED SYMPATHY" WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAMUCAR AND SAID THAT THE GOTT IS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PROJECT. THE MEXICAN DELEGATION AGREED TO SUPPLY TRINIDAD WITH A COPY OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE PROJECT TO AID IN THE DELIBERATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, ECHEVERRIA GAVE GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARIBBEAN LAW OF THE SEA REGIME, SUCH AS PROPOSED BY WILLIAMS, BASED ON EQUITY AND JUSTICE.

6. TURNING TO BROADER CONCERNS, ECHEVERRIA AND WILLIAMS AGREED THAT COUNTRIES IN THE THIRD WORLD SHOULD STAND TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE "FULL ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE" AND THAT THEY SHOULD USE THEIR COMBINED STRENGTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INAALL INTERNATIONAL FORA TO DEVELOP A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CERDS. WILLIAMS GAVE HIS SUPPORT TO THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MECHANISM FOR THE THIRD WORLD TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC EFFORTS AND TO DEFEND THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS. THE TWO LEADERS ALSO ENDORSED COOPERATION BY PRODUCER NATIONS TO SECURE JUST AND EQUITABLE PRICES FOR THEIR PRODUCTS, SPECIFICALLY, IN THE CASE OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES, BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORGANIZATION WITH A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK.

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USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OES-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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7. TWO MISCELLANEOUS NOTES FROM THE VISIT: FORMER

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER JOINED

THE ALREADY LARGE MEXICAN PARTY IN TRINIDAD TO ACCOMPANY

ECHEVERRIA ON THE CUBAN LEG OF THE TRIP AS PRESS" ADVISOR

TO THE PRESIDENT". ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, SALINGER

CAME AT THE REQUEST OF THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT, BUT NO

FURTHER EXPLANATION WAS OFFERED BY EITHER PARTY.

SALINGER DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE OFFICIAL PARTS OF

THE VISIT IN TRINIDAD.

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8. PASSING THROUGH THE RECEPTION LINE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT THE AIRPORT JUST PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE, PRESIDENT AND MRS. ECHEVERRIA SINGLED OUT THE CHINESE CHARGE FOR AN ESPECIALLY WARM GREETING AND BRIEF CONVERSATION. ECHEVERRIA ASKED THE CHARGE TO CONVEY HIS GREETINGS TO CHAIRMAN MAO.

9. COMMENT: THE ECHEVERRIA VISIT WAS NOT EXPECTED TO PRODUCE MORE THAN GOOD WILL AND HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO "CARIBBEAN BASIN" NATIONS. IT FULFILLED THESE EXPECTATIONS ADMIRABLY AND, IN DOING SO, DISPELLED WHATEVER ILL WILL HAD BEEN CREATED BY WILLIAMS' "THREAT" SPEECHES. WHILE THE TONE OF THE VISIT WAS NOT QUITE THE THIRD WORLD LOVE-IN THAT CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT BY TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE, WILLIAMS AND ECHEVERRIA WERE VERY MUCH AT EASE DISCUSSING THE WHOLE GAMUT OF FAMILIAR THIRD WORLD THEMES. THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT TRINIDAD WILL RIGOROUSLY FOLLOW UP ON THE AGREEMENTS AND PLANS MADE DURING THE VISIT, GIVEN A GENERALLY POOCR TRACK RECORD HERE AND THE ALREADY EXTRAVAGANT COMMITMENTS MADE BY WILLIAMS DURING HIS TRIPS ABROAD FOR FOLLOW-UP VISITS, EXCHANGES AND SCHOLARSHIPS. WILLIAMS WILL, HOWEVER, BE ANXIOUS TO RETAIN OR OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF MEXICO DURING THE UPCOMING ECLA MEETINGS FOR HIS PET PROJECTS.
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